

THE DAILY STAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

ONLY two more days of Exposition after to-day. Think of that and come out.

EVERY DAY or two the Carlises are set down as put down, but somehow they will not stay down.

THE Porte will have no more foreign interference and declares that this is the advice of friendly England.

THE spirit of sadness that pervades the funny column of the Inter-Ocean rather impresses us with the belief that Mr. Ham, the removed Assessor of Customs, is the man that has charge of that department.

THE St. Louis Globe, speaking of the struggles of the New York Witness, wants to know whether the profession of a journalist is compatible with the profession of being a truly good man. Ask the New York Sun.

THE FREE PRESS explains that the name of Bismarck's son-in-law elect has been fearfully mutilated by the telegraph. It does look that way—Wendelzuentarberge. What a name it must have been before that piece was cut off.

IT is rather convenient in some respects to be politician and editor at the same time. Mr. Ham, of the Inter-Ocean, writes an open letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, publishes it in his own paper and then says of it editorially: "The open letter of Mr. Ham to Secretary Bristow hits the mark exactly."

WE publish a very interesting letter to-day from a correspondent in Japan. Even from that far-off land come reports of business depression and dullness in the chief branches of trade. Truly, as was remarked by a leading Cincinnati merchant, on his return from Europe, a few days ago, "The whole business world seems to have been on a spree, and is now suffering from the effects of it."

THE epizooty has made its appearance in all parts of the country, though in a mild form. It is a singular coincidence that its advent should be made this time at precisely the same season of the year that it appeared three years ago. It then commenced the first week in October and was at its worst about the 25th, but all the horses were still down with it as late as the first week in November.

SEVERAL papers, that should show better taste, are disgusting fair-minded people by endeavoring to say hard things of Ex-Treasurer Spinner. But the "Ex-old man of the Treasury" served too long and too faithfully for the people of this country to relish or countenance seeing him unnecessarily abused in his old age. Some enthusiastic friends of Mr. Bristow are making a mistake, and may provoke a story that they will afterwards have cause to regret. Better go slow in abusing "the old man."

THE Pacific Coast papers have been busy in their conjectures as to the mission that took General Sheridan to that part of the country. The conclusion is that, on account of the rumors of Indian troubles in Oregon and the prospects of a general Indian war very soon, General Sheridan was sent out to view the situation. This general outbreak, which is looked for early next spring, the authorities think will have its center about the Black Hills country. Meanwhile, military stations are being established so as to encircle the Indian country, so that the army will be able to crush out a war as soon as it comes upon us, with the greatest possible facility. General Sheridan has been giving his personal attention to this important work, and it is this that has taken him all over the Northwestern country and to the Pacific Coast.

THE FASHIONS ESTHETICALLY CONSIDERED.

WE do not know that it will do any good, but we protest, nevertheless, most decidedly, most emphatically, at the anomalies, the absurdities, the indecencies, the follies, the extravagance, the wastefulness, the wickedness, that fashion forever and forever perpetrates in the matter of clothes for the human family. We would not lightly indulge in murmurings at the dispensations of Providence, but when we survey a crowd of bipeds anywhere beneath the sun and moon and stars, be it in town or city, on the highways or byways of the earth, when we observe the diverse and marvelous manner in which they are clad, we confess being tempted almost to question the perfect wisdom of an all-wise Creator that failed to provide for the human family in the beginning a covering of feathers, bristles, scales, quills, shells, anything in fact that would have prevented in all after time the tormenting of half mankind to produce a covering for human nakedness, that man's ingenuity during 6,000 years of acknowledged creation has failed to make as beautiful as the lilies of the field, or so comfortable or so adapted to his needs as the covering provided for beasts, or so wonderful in texture as that of the birds of the air, or so skillfully wrought as that of reptiles and fishes.

Seriously, of what use to human happiness is this racking of the inventive brains of milliners and tailors to fashion raiment after marvelous but forever changing devices, in no wise promotive of human comfort, solely to the end that men and women may dazzle their fellows with unending novelties? Of what use that industrious artisans waste their lives in the production of fabrics of silk and wool, of linen and cotton, less serviceable and less adapted to the

necessities of mankind and less suited for his protection against the vicissitudes of temperature than the skins of beasts? Why should men's hats fulfill neither the aesthetic nor the utilitarian requirements of such an article? Why should this necessary piece of head gear be one season a shining cylinder of pasteboard and silk ironed upon a block that varies from season to season its shape—first that of an elongated cylinder having an equal diameter at bottom and top, next fashioned as a pyramid with sloping sides, and then as suddenly it mimics the form of an inverted cone; its rim is wide, it then is narrow; it first turns up, again turns down; the top is flat, anon is round; it bulges barely enough to shed the falling shower; then, in defiance of fitness for the uses which called it into being, a miniature brim is formed upon its top wherein the raindrops accumulate to deluge the wearer at irregular but constantly recurring intervals.

Why should the skirt of his coat descend to his heels for a season, and be orthodox and decent, and suddenly, without cause or reason or explanation other than that it is the fashion, ascend far above his knees? Why should the waist, which nature has located at the girdle, go up under the arms and as suddenly descend upon the hips? Why should our trowsers swell to the amplitude of meal sacks in the fashion plates and upon the limbs of all male humanity, and then collapse to a degree of attenuation such that our legs seem to have been liquefied and poured into the bifurcated integuments peculiar to male bipeds, like jelly in a mold? Why should the many folded strips of sufficed linen, or its paste-board imitation, which we wear about our necks and style a collar, be jauntily rolled down above a scarf, and then remorselessly set on edge, to the perpetual endangering of the ears of all masculine mankind? Why are boots and shoes constructed to fit a fashion in lasts that changes from round to square, from wide to narrow, from blunt to pointed ends, rather than alter the model of the human foot?

And in the matter of women's attire, how have the skirt which we shall begin or where shall our interrogations cease? Why must the dear creatures forever disguise the graceful outlines of their charming persons by ingenious but inelegant fictions, simulating deformities that, if they actually existed, would render them simply hideous? What useful, earthly or subterranean or esthetic aspiration is satisfied by hanging enormous amplitudes of skirt over circumambient steel or whalebone balloons which protect the nether limbs as little as the distended cover of an umbrella does its own handle. But if it indeed be beautiful, or commodious, or convenient, why, for every created woman under heaven has adjusted her wardrobe in accordance with this usage, why, we ask, ruthlessly and incontinently abandon these whalebone and steel inventions utterly; reduce the flowing robes to the girl them back about the limbs so that skimp and scantiness of proportions and like an impossibility? Why, when, for a wonder, the skirts of women's dresses have, by Fashion's decree, been sensibly shortened to the shoe tops, as actually occurred within the memory of living persons, so as to enable even the most unsophisticated to see and know that female human beings have legs and feet, and are not really propelled upon castors—why must the dear creatures fly to the opposite extreme and trail their beflowed and elongated robes a yard upon the ground through mire and filth and all uncleanness, until we almost believe the antique fiction of the sirens floating upon the waves of the sea, with woman's intoxicating charms displayed above the foam, but the serpent's horrid form below? Why should her hair, the crowning glory of a woman, be tortured and twisted and dyed and bleached and puffed and powdered and frizzed, clipped short in front to hang straight over the brow, the fairest feature in a woman's face, while at the back or on the crown it is rolled and plaited and twisted in huge masses made up of all abominations, rags, wool, lint, hemp, jute, bags of bran, cotton, feathers, hair of beasts, and worst of all, human hair plucked from the dead or diseased and hospitals, until under the ungainly mass of rubbish the graceful outlines of the female head divine is disguised and concealed rather than adorned? Why must the hat or bonnet that ought surely to be a covering for the head, simply and suitably made, adapted of course to the changing seasons—wherefore should this be so changing as the tides? To-day having rimbed possessing the circumference of umbrellas, to-morrow with none or next to none at all; one week a thing of rattan and tissue as huge almost as a cat-o'-nine-paws, in the cavernous depths of which the ever charming face of woman resembles that of a syren in the recesses of grottoes; to-morrow, peroxide, to disappear, and the jaws of an outraged community, to be replaced by a device of ribbons and flowers and laces, scarcely wider than a garter? Why should a woman's gown be trimmed one way, and then another, and another, and yet another, now a flounce, to-morrow a fold, again a neither or both, forever and forever?

Why should both men and women, but especially women, constantly pursue the ignis fatuus of seeking to fashion their garments after the latest modes, when the latest modes are phantoms that, like dissolving views upon the magic lantern screen, only seem to fade to other forms, themselves as evanescent as their predecessors? Why? But our interrogatories, like the line of spectres that fled at the vision of the Scottish Thane, threatens to stretch to the crack of doom, and we desist, feeling that if human folly has for six thousand years wasted itself like the ass's head in a maze of ridicule and in the attempt to obtain a serious hearing in the midst of the junketing of this Vanity Fair, is, indeed, a Quixotic and hopeless undertaking.

The probability of war between England and China seems to be increasing. It was but narrowly avoided two months ago, and now the cloud is bigger and blacker than it was then. Such a war would be both difficult and costly for England to fight, but the people of that country do not stand upon trifles when the necessity for fighting comes. It is believed that during the last fifteen years China has made great progress in the matter of fighting, but it is not likely that an English army of moderate size would find any great difficulty in defeating a large Chinese one.—N. Y. Sun.

Bismarck's daughter will have "the age of consent" when she comes to him from the club. She'll make him pronounce his own name—Wendelzuentarberge.

THE City of Nagasaki—Porcelain and Coal—Hotels and Climbers—Japanese Traders—Business Depression, etc., etc.

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two or three years, and those now doing business in Japan have such a large competition to contend against that it is almost impossible to more than pay their current annual expenses. Even since my first advent in this place many large foreign firms have been obliged to succumb to the pressure of the times and return to their native countries.

Japan is very heavily in debt to England, in fact she has advanced all the money Japan has needed for the past ten years or more, involving the government to largely with a scarcely any revenue—that I fear a disaster of some kind must come in the end.

The new American postal system of Japan, inaugurated last January, is working very successfully, indeed, throughout the Empire. The mails have increased to an extraordinary extent. The number of newspapers alone passing through the mails during the present year was 2,023,648 as compared with 514,619 of the year previous, showing an actual increase of 411 per cent., a fact which speaks volumes for the progress of civilization.

French Dramatic Authors Compared.

In the character of both playwright and novelist, Octave Feuillet is one of the most complete authors in this list. There is but one other who possesses the double gift to the same degree of excellence—Alexandre Dumas.

An effort is made in the annexed table to place contemporary French playwrights in relative order of merit. To do this absolutely is next to impossible, for the basis nearly up to the summit, thereby presenting a lovely appearance as viewed from any part of the harbor, which is, in itself, nearly two miles wide by seven or eight miles in length, affording an ample anchorage for thousands of vessels, and considered one of the safest harbors in Japan.

Nearly all the coal used in Japan comes from the famous "Yasunaga Mines," located a few miles below the city; in fact, I may say, that this is the principal or chief support of the place, inducing vessels to come here for their supplies of coal and other things for ships' use.

Hotels are very numerous, there being no less than fifteen all told—first, second and third classes. Among the principal ones are the Occidental, Smith's Hotel, the Commercial and Bellevue. There are more hotels here, according to foreign population, than there are in any other part of the world; and, having intentions of making a tour this way, will be sure of finding ample accommodations at Nagasaki and at prices to suit everybody.

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